

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A plug for cooperating with a waste outlet, comprising:  
a seal;  
a stem for being received in an outlet waste and coupled to the seal, the stem being selectively adjustable in length for selectively engaging the seal with a portion of an outlet waste to open and seal the outlet waste; and

a strainer member operatively associated with one of the seal and the stem, wherein the stem is adjustable in length in response to a compressive force exerted on the stem.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The plug of claim 1, wherein the stem defines a vertical axis, and extends axially downwardly of the seal, with the strainer being located axially upwardly of the seal.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The plug of ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the strainer is adapted for location at an uppermost portion of the plug, with the seal being adapted for location below the strainer within the waste outlet.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The plug of claim 3, wherein the strainer is adapted for location flush with a waste outlet.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The plug of ~~any of claims 1 to 2~~ claim 1, wherein in use the seal is located on an upper portion of the plug, with the strainer being located below the seal within the waste outlet.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The plug of ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 wherein the plug is for a sink.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The plug of ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the strainer is removable from the stem or the seal to which it is coupled.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The plug of ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the strainer has a shape corresponding to the shape of an opening of a waste outlet.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The plug of ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the plug further comprises a surface for contact with a user's hand.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The plug of claim 9, wherein the surface is in the form of a button.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The plug of claim 9 ~~or claim 10~~, wherein the surface is provided on a portion of the plug formed to permit grasping thereof.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The plug of claim 9, ~~10, or 11~~, wherein the surface is provided on a portion of the plug adapted to retain one of the strainer and the seal on the stem.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The plug of claim 12, wherein the portion of the plug is removable from the plug to permit disassembly of the plug.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The plug of ~~any of claims 8 to 13~~ claim 1, wherein the surface is dimensioned to substantially conceal a waste outlet opening in use.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The plug of ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the stem comprises two substantially concentric portions biased to a first length.

Claim 16 (previously presented): 16. The plug of claim 15, wherein the stem further comprises a latch means arranged to hold the portions in a second length against the bias.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The plug of ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the stem may be extended and contracted by the application and release of a force in a single direction.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The plug of claim 17, wherein the stem length may be varied by the application of less than around 5 lbs (2.2 kg) of force.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The plug of ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the seal comprises a resilient material.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The plug of ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the stem is adapted to be secured to an outlet waste.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The plug of claim 20, wherein the stem comprises a threaded member for engaging with a correspondingly-threaded member provided on a waste outlet.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The plug of claim 21, further comprising a non-threaded sleeve for engaging with the threaded stem member to allow the stem to be freely received in a waste outlet.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The plug of ~~any of claims 1 to 19~~ claim 1, wherein the stem is adapted to be freely received in an outlet waste.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The plug of ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the strainer is a basket strainer.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The plug of ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, provided in combination with a waste outlet.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The combination of claim 25, wherein the stem is located in the centre of the waste outlet.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The combination of claim 26, wherein the waste outlet has an inner portion and an outer portion are centrally secured relative to each other.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The combination of claim 27, wherein the strainer and the waste outlet define a flow gap therebetween when the seal is in the open position.

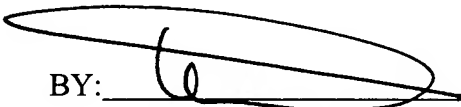
Claim 29 (previously presented: The combination of claim 28, wherein the flow gap is annular and defined by an outer circumference of the strainer and a surrounding inner surface of the waste outlet.

Claim 30 (currently amended): The plug of ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the strainer is fixed relative to the seal.

Respectfully submitted,

LAW OFFICES OF CHRISTOPHER L. MAKAY  
1634 Milam Building  
115 East Travis Street  
San Antonio, Texas 78205  
(210) 472-3535

DATE: 10 November 2005

BY:   
Christopher L. Makay  
Reg. No. 34,475

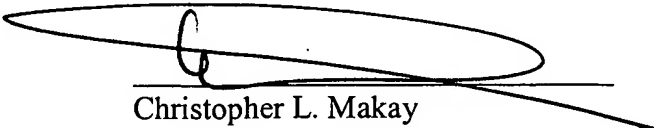
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT

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Christopher L. Makay